

HARRY S TRUMAN STATE PARK

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

September, 2025

Location: Benton County
Established: 1976
Size: 1,440 Acres

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Harry S Truman State Park is to provide outdoor recreation compatible with the lake and Ozark landscape; to interpret the park's historical connection to the Osage and explorer Zebulon Pike; and to preserve, restore and interpret the park's reservoir ecosystem.

INTRODUCTION

The area which now makes up Harry S Truman State Park contains a rich history of the Osage Indians and other early explorers and settlers. Pioneers began settling in this area in the 1830's. The Osage River was first used as part of a trail from St. Louis to Santa Fe. Later the river was used for transporting goods.

Harry S Truman State Park was leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1976 and consists of 1440 acres of woodlands and glades. Here, the prairies of the Osage plains meet the forests of the rugged hills of the Ozarks. This transition area has created a unique variety of landscape features. The forested areas contain such trees as the white oak, shagbark hickory, northern red oak, and sugar maple. Evidence of the prairie can be seen in the savanna areas.

Located in the Springfield Plateau of the Ozark Natural Division, the park contains a significant natural community. Several prairie glade plants exist in this park that do not exist in any other state park. They are the western wallflower, stick leaf, and prairie spurge.

The park is home to numerous fox, coyote, deer, wild turkey, white pelican, beaver, and pileated wood pecker. It is also a roosting area for bald and golden eagles. The park provides for many outdoor recreation opportunities including fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, camping, picnicking, and nature study.

SITE GOALS

- Preserve the natural and cultural resources located within the Park's boundaries;
- Provide recreational opportunities and public use facilities compatible with the park's mission, resources, and public needs;
- Provide adequate orientation and interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experience;
- Provide administrative support facilities to ensure successful operation and maintenance of the Park.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

- Zebulon Pike
- Native flora and fauna
- History of the Osage

SITE STRUCTURES

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Sqft</u>	<u>Const. Year</u>	<u>Historic</u>
Equipment Building	1700	1980	No
Service Building	1736	2002	No
Residence	1768	1979	No
Vault Toilet - Day Use	88	1981	No
Vault Toilet - Marina	88	1982	No
Vault Toilet - CG Boat Ramp	88	1982	No
Shower House #1 - Raccoon Ridge	2030	1982	No
Shower House #2 - Thorny Ridge	2030	1982	No
Well House #3	130	1982	No
Well House #2	108	1982	No
Lloyd Parker Memorial Shelter	4268	1981	No
Shower House #3 - Buck Ridge Area	1450	1983	No
Change House Day Use	909	1983	No
Restroom CG Beach	414	1984	No
Check Station	36	1986	No
Lumber Storage	140	1982	No
Storage Shed – Residence	256	1982	No
Storage Shed – Flammable	144	1984	No
Well House #1	169	1978	No
Office	3935	2005	No
Vault Toilet - Thorny Ridge	171	2015	No
Vault Toilet - Wild Turkey Ridge	180	1991	No
Maintenance Shop	1440	2000	No
Well House #2 New	210	2006	No
Shelter - Day Use	150	2014	No

*National Register of Historic Places

** National Historic Landmark

USE AREAS & DEVELOPMENT

Harry S Truman State Park's development should support the interpretation of the Zebulon Pike expedition and the history of the Osage people, interpret and emphasize the natural and cultural resources located within the park, and provide recreational and public use facilities that are consistent with the mission of the park.

1. Create Water Trail

A new water trail is to be designed along the northwest corner of the park, which will run from the Thorny Ridge boat ramp, around the coastline near the Thorny Ridge Campsite, and end at the existing west side Day Use Area.

2. Upgrade Basic Campsites

Upgrades to the existing basic campsites may include upgrade to 50 amp full hookup, water and sewer. The specifics of these upgrades are to be determined after further natural and cultural evaluations.

3. Improve Shower Houses

The three current shower houses are to be upgraded to include new interior flooring, partitions, and sinks. This would also include renovations to the two existing beach change houses.

4. Replace Vault Toilets

The currently existing vault toilets will be replaced with new vault toilets. These replacements will be made to all current vault toilet locations throughout the park.

5. High Water Boat Ramp and Parking

The east end High Water Boat Ramp near the Marina will be extended to allow new parking spaces. Multiple locations for the expanded parking are to be selected and evaluated at a later date.

6. Develop a New Playground and Pickleball Courts

A new playground featuring 5-to-12-year-old children compatible equipment, such as slides and swings, will potentially be built in the currently unutilized space where the previous playground once was. Pickleball Courts are also to be constructed, possibly near the new playground (exact location of Pickleball courts to be determined). Alternative possible locations are to be selected and evaluated at a later date.

7. Expand Trail System

The current trail system will be expanded to include a new section which stretches into the upper-central east interior of the park and connects with the other existing trails on the west end of the park. This will also include backpacking campsites.

8. Relocate the Marina Bathrooms

The bathrooms near the marina are to be moved away from the flood zone.

9. Resurface Roads

The road system within the park will be resurfaced throughout the park, including new striping.

10. Designate as a Legacy Landscape

A portion of the park will be designated as a Legacy Landscape to establish and protect exemplary locations where the state park mission to preserve Missouri's most outstanding natural landscapes will be effectively accomplished.

11. Create Overlook Observation Area/Zebulon Pike and Osage Interpretation Area

A new interpretation area is to be built on the east coast overlook which will detail the history of the Osage people as well as the Zebulon Pike expedition. This overlook area will feature a picnic table, benches, and possibly a boardwalk platform similar to those at Ha Ha Tonka.

Special Considerations

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) considerations and restrictions.
- Section 106 regulations.
- Osage Nation considerations.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH GOALS

- Research the Legacy Landscape details associated with the park.
- Research the Zebulon Pike expedition historical interpretation opportunities.
- Research Osage activity and historical interpretation opportunities.

PROJECT PHASING

- Phase 1
 - Develop a New Playground
 - Create Water Trail
 - High Water Boat Ramp and Parking
 - Relocate the Marina Bathrooms
 - Designate as a Legacy Landscape
- Phase 2
 - Expand Trail System
 - Upgrade Basic Campsites
 - Create Overlook Observation Area/Zebulon Pike and Osage Interpretation Area
 - Replace Vault Toilets
 - Improve Shower Houses
 - Resurface Roads

Cultural and natural resource clearances will be required before on-site modifications and development occur.

ACQUISITION UNITS

If offered, acquisition of adjacent property may be pursued only through willing sellers or donors. To be considered, units should enhance the mission of Missouri State Parks through one of the following categories:

- Resource preservation and protection
- Recreational access and opportunity
- Management facilitation

CONTEXTUAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Public Input

Public input is an integral part of the CDP process. Throughout the CDP process, MSP staff utilized online surveys to gauge public opinions on various proposed developments. The following includes input opportunities throughout the planning process:

- 1. Public Survey #1, July 2024 - August 2024**
 - a. n = 801
- 2. Public Survey #2, May 2025 – June 2025**
 - a. n= 10

Communication methodologies: News release, legislative letters, social media posts, mostateparks.com/CDP, email bulletin, and QR business cards/flyer.

CDP Team Members:

- Laura Hendrickson – Division Director
- Melanie Smith – Division Deputy Director
- Justin Adams – Division Deputy Director
- Larry Webb – Ozark Region Director
- Josh Greer– Superintendent
- Chris Crabtree – Natural Resource Program Director
- Dr. Mike Ohnersorgen – Cultural Resource Management Program Director
- Kim Dillon – Cultural Resource Management Section Chief
- Terry Bruns – Planning and Development Program Director
- Don Stier – Design Section Chief
- Ryan Dunwoody – Grants, Recreation and Interpretation Program Director
- Daniel Engler – Planning Section Chief
- Chris Edmondson – Outdoor Recreation Management Section Chief
- Logan Nuernberger – Trail Coordinator
- Zane Price – Real Estate Manager
- Tisha Holden – Information Officer

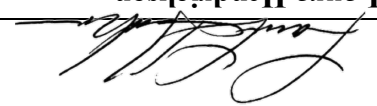
APPENDIX

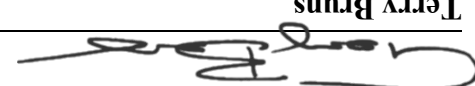
- CDP Map
- Public Survey #1 Results
- Public Survey #2 Results

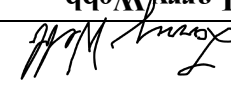
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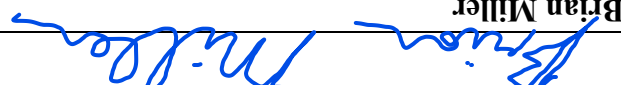
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Date 09/17/2025


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